

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SAB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /082 W

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P R 141158Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5527

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 15732

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US' SY

SUBJ: BRITISH PRESS REPORT PRESIDENT FORD WILL MEET

ASSAD

1. GUARDIAN OF OCTOBER 13 CARRIED ARTICLE BY ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, JONATHAN STEELE, DATELINED OCT. 12 WHICH TOOK AS POINT OF DEPARTURE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TELEVISION INTERVIEW OF OCTOBER 12. ARTICLE REFERS TO US DESIRE TO ENCOURAGE ASSAD TO MAKE AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL AND ADDS: "YESTERDAY THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. FAHMY, SAID THAT PLANS WERE GOING AHEAD FOR A MEETING BETWEEN THE SYRIAN LEADER AND MR. FORD IN EUROPE WHEN THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT ATTENDS THE WESTERN ECONOMIC SUMMIT NEXT MONTH. ALTHOUGH THE WHITE HOUSE HAS SO FAR DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THIS, SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE WELL IN LINE WITH PRESENT AMERICAN POLICY."

2. URWICK, HEAD OF NEAR EAST DEPARTMENT OF FCO, CALLED US AT OPENING OF BUSINESS OCT. 14, EXPRESSING SURPRISE AT FAHMY STATEMENT AND ASKING IF WE COULD CONFIRM. REQUEST GUIDANCE ON WHAT TO SAY TO FCO.

3. OCTOBER 14 DAILY TELEGRAPH, EVIDENTLY DRAWING ON CONFIDENTIAL

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SAME OCTOBER 12 TV INTERVIEW, NOTES IN ITEM

ON INSIDE PAGE, "OUR WASHINGTON STAFF REPORTS: AMERICA
HAS BEGUN DISAUSIONS ON HOLDING A NEW FULL-SCALE
MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE INVOLVING ALL THE CONCERNED
PARTIES WITH RUSSIA AND AMERICA AS CHAIRMEN". WE WOULD
APPRECIATE RECEIVING TEXT OF MIDDLE EAST PORTIONS OF
OCTOBER 12 INTERVIEW, WHICH NOT CARRIED IN OCT. 14
EUROPEAN WIRELESS FILE.

RICHARDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES, JOURNALISTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON15732
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750355-0832
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751056/aaaabxsztel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH PRESS REPORT PRESIDENT FORD WILL MEET ASSAD
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, US, SY, XG, XF, (FORD, GERALD R), (ASSAD, HAFEZ AL), (STEELE, JONATHAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006